

GOOD NEIGHBOR ENVIRONMENTAL BOARD

MONTHLY ROUND-UP

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Board News

Good Neighbor Environmental Board Meetings for 2001

- **July 25-26** - San Diego, California
- **October 10-11** - Laredo, Texas

Yuma Meeting Recap

The Board held its first of three meetings scheduled for 2001 in Yuma, Arizona, from March 21-22 at the Shilo Inn and Conference Center. Thanks to the hard work of the planning committee, the meeting was attended by 15 Board members and alternates, 9 speakers, and about a dozen members of the public. Speakers included experts on pesticides issues, a member of the Border Health Commission, a representative from NADBank, and an environmental consultant affiliated with SEMARNAT and Consejo. The public included the Mayor of Yuma, Marilyn Young; members of the Cocopah and Quechan tribes and the Intertribal Council of Arizona; a university consortium representative; a representative from Mexico's Consejo environmental advisory group; and city and county officials. Media coverage included spots on the evening news of two local television stations and a newspaper article in the Yuma Daily Sun. Meeting was preceded by optional field trip on the Colorado River.

Fifth Report

Board members have divided into four issue groups to begin framing recommendations for Good Neighbor's Fifth Report to the President and Congress: management and transportation of hazardous materials; wastewater treatment; air quality, and water resources. Cross-cutting themes: infrastructure, relationship between economics and the environment; cross-border harmonization, and public health.

HazMat Group is beginning to look at the repatriation of maquiladora hazardous waste and the open border for northbound trucks. Wastewater Group

has decided to focus on rural needs, including beneficial reuse, capital improvements, and funding. Air Group is discussing power plant emissions and funding issues, with emphasis on local solutions. Water Resources Group is examining the institutional and legal framework for water policy decisions; several sub-basins may be selected as cases in point.

July 1 is the deadline for issue group draft recommendations to be made available to the full Board for consideration.

Fifth Report April Conference Calls

(*call-in numbers will be provided; more members will be added)

- **Air Quality Group** - Members: Placido dos Santos, Nancy Sutley, John Klein and Karen Chapman. Teleconference call: April 16 , noon Eastern time.

- **HazMat Group** - Members: Ed Ranger, Jennifer Kraus, and M.J. Fiocco. Teleconference call: April 11, noon Eastern time.

- **Wastewater Group** - Members: Jerry Paz, Bill McLeese, Diana Borja, and Bob Ybarra. Teleconference call: April 10, noon Eastern time.

- **Water Resources Group**: Members include Susan Kunz, Irasema Coronado, Rafael Guerrero, Diana Borja, Bob Ybarra, Karen Chapman, John Klein, David Randolph, and Linda Smith. Teleconference call: same as Wastewater Group call.

Next Good Neighbor Meeting: San Diego

Good Neighbor's next meeting will be in San Diego on July 25-26. A potential theme: water issues, including both water resources and wastewater. Planning committee to determine theme and speakers during its next teleconference call. May include optional field trip on the afternoon of the 24th. Planning committee members currently include Jennifer Kraus, Ed Ranger, and Nancy Sutley.

Final 2001 Good Neighbor Meeting: Laredo

The last meeting of 2001 is scheduled for Laredo, Texas, on October 10-11. One option under consideration is to have a portion of the meeting be binational. Laredo Planning Committee to continue discussing agenda in consultation with the rest of the Board. Planning committee members currently include Diana Borja, Karen Chapman, Irasema Coronado, Rafael Guerrero, John Klein, and Darrin Swartz-Larson.

Comment Letters

The Board has issued a letter to the President and Congress requesting that EPA's Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund be appropriated a specific budget

line item of \$100 million. It also is drafting a letter to NADBank in response to its request for comments on potential pilot projects under its expanded mandate.

New Membership Participation Workgroup Formed

In response to a suggestion from the Chair, the Board has set up an informal workgroup on membership issues. The focus: how best to enable all Board members to engage fully in the activities of the Board. Members: Judith Espinosa, Susan Kunz, Ed Ranger, and Nancy Sutley.

Border Region News
a section of the Good Neighbor
Environmental Board March 2001
Round-Up

****Note: The items in the section below have been cut-and-pasted and compiled from other documents. Please check a primary source to ensure complete accuracy. Web sites may have to be re-entered.****

Border Health Commission - The third outreach office of the U.S.-Mexico Border Health Commission has opened in Tucson. Similar offices have opened in California and New Mexico, and one is scheduled to open shortly in Texas

CEC (newsletter) - The spring issue NACEC's electronic newsletter is now online at www.cec.org/trio. Articles include Mexico's commitment to PRTR and lessons from NAFTA.

Children's health proposals - HHS is soliciting proposals to assist with outreach on enrolling border-region children currently not utilizing health services.

Deadline: April 26. See www.hrsa.dhhs.gov/contract.htm

Children (report) - "America's Children and the Environment" is an EPA assessment of trends in environmental factors that may affect children's health in the U.S. See www.epa.gov/children/indicators

Community health proposals - HHS Office of Minority Health announces grant funds for community programs to improve minority health. Deadline: May 18, 2001. Contact: (301) 594-0769.

Farmworker protection - The Association of Farmworker Opportunity Program's pesticide-safety and leadership development program called SAFE is now accepting host agency applications for the year 2002. See www.afop.org

IBWC U.S. section Commissioner - President Bush intends to appoint Carlos M.

Ramirez as Commissioner of the United States Section of the International Boundary and Water Commission for the U.S. and Mexico. Mr. Ramirez currently is serving his second term as Mayor of El Paso.

IBWC Minute No. 307 - IBWC has signed Water Debt Minute 307, which provides a process to provide Texas 600,000 acre feet of Mexican tributary waters in partial fulfillment of Mexico's obligation under the 1944 U.S.-Mexico Treaty for Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and of the Rio Grande.

Land conservation - 3M Foundation has given the Nature Conservancy \$5.1 million to protect vanishing habitat in Texas and Minnesota. It includes \$1.95 million for habitat along the Rio Grande in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

Mexico - President Fox has launched the National Crusade for Forests and Water. SEMARNAT issued a statement saying it is urgent to diminish the waste of water. The initial event was said to be the first of 10 that environmental authorities will organize this year to reshape public policies about issues such as the scarcity of water at the U.S.-Mexican border. It was also announced that SEMARNAT has been made part of the "Growth with Quality" Cabinet.

Mexico's northern states (report) - "Peligra Ecologia del Norte" describes ecological problems facing each of the northern states of Mexico. See www.rioweb.org/Archive/en_econorte032301.html

Pesticide database - Version 2.0 of the PAN Pesticide Database is now available at www.pesticidesinfo.org. The database provides information on about 5,4000 pesticide active ingredients, breakdown products, and related chemicals, as well as information on more than 100,000 formulated pesticide products registered by EPA.

Pesticides in Texas - A study from the Texas Pesticide Information Network says city parks in the 27 largest metropolitan areas in Texas are at risk due to chemical use. Brownsville is ranked among the highest and El Paso among the lowest. See www.rioweb.org/Archive/enn_txtoxins032301.htm

Water quality - A state-federal action plan to reduce the size of the Gulf of Mexico dead zone has been proposed by 10 federal agencies, 9 states, and 2 Indian tribes and sent to the President and Congress for consideration. See www.epa.gov/msbasin/actionplanintro.htm

Water supply - Two out of every three people will face water shortages by 2025, according to a new report published by a British Christian relief and development agency called Tearfund. The group calls for government and institutions to place water high on the agenda for action at the World Summit on Sustainable Development scheduled to take place in Johannesburg, South Africa, next year.

Water-wastewater infrastructure - EPA's Office of Wastewater Management

has published "Status Report on the Water-wastewater Infrastructure Program for the U.S.-Mexico Borderlands." See www.epa.gov/owm/mexican.htm

**Border Issues Events
Calendar**

a section of the Good Neighbor
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Note: Event listings below have been drawn from other lists and may have changed. Please check a primary source for more details. Web sites may have to be re-entered.

Events specific to border region are in bold.

- Apr 2 - 4** U.S.-Mexico Border Resource Conservation & Development meeting, El Paso, TX.
- Apr 10** EPA public meeting on wastewater/water quality issues in Tijuana. Imperial Beach, CA. Contact: shafir.wendi@epa.gov.
- Apr 12** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- Apr 22 - 25 NSF Small Drinking Water and Wastewater Systems conference. Contact: cotruvo@nsf.org.
- Apr 25 - 27 10th Annual Conference on Health and the Environment, United Nations, New York. Contact: wit1986@aol.com
- Apr 26 - 28** Encuentro Fronterizo III, Baja California, Mexico
- Apr 26 - 28** Texas A & M Rio Bravo/Rio Grande Environmental Conference, Weslaco, TX. See www.even.tamuk.edu/REC2001
- Apr 30- May 2** Border Institute III Rio Rico meeting, Rio Rico, Arizona. See www.scerp.org
- Apr 30- May 2 Rio+ 10 Prep Comm. See www.un.org/rio+10
- Apr 30- May 2 AWRA's Water Quality Monitoring and Modeling Conference, San Antonio, TX. See www.awra.org/meetings/Texas2001
- May 2 - 4 CEC National Advisory Committee/Government Advisory Committee meeting, Washington, D.C.
- May 3 - 4** Border Health Foundation: Information for Action III, Nogales, Sonora. Contact: maribel@ambhf.org
- May 8-10 -** U.S.-Mexico Border RC&D Coalition meeting, El Paso, TX.
- May 10** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- May 12-19 National River Cleanup Week. Contact: rivercleanup@aol.com
- May 15-17** VI Congreso Nacional de Ciencias Ambientales, Pachuca, Hidalgo

- May 19-20 NWF & Planning and Coconservation League Foundation symposium, Smart Growth for Californians and Wildlife, San Diego, CA. See www.nwf.org/smartgrowth/sdsymp/html
- May 20-22 World Agricultural Forum-Congress, St. Louis, Missouri. See www.worldagforum.org/congress2001/index.html
- May 20-23 National Watershed Coalition's conference on Small Watershed Programs, Richmond, VA Contact: jwpeterson@erols.com
- May 29-Jun 1** US-Mexico Border Health Association Annual Meeting, Las Cruces, New Mexico
- June** Ten-State Border Governors' Conference
- June 17-21 AWWA Annual Conference & Exposition, Washington, D.C. See www.awwa.org/ace2001/incex.htm
- June 20 CEC Working Group on Sound Management of Chemicals meeting, Tucson, AZ. Contact: mpepin@ccemtl.org
- June 20-21** BECC meeting, Washington, D.C.
- June 27-July 1 EPA National Watershed Forum, Arlington, VA.
- June 30- July 3 National Environmental Health Association Annual Educational Conference, Atlanta, GA
- July 2- 4 7th Annual International Interdisciplinary Conference on the Environment, San Francisco, CA
- July 25-26** Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting, San Diego, CA. See www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm
- July 30-Aug 2 Nature Conservancy conference, "Managing River Flows for Biodiversity," Fort Collins, CO. See www.freshwaters.org/conference
- Aug 11-14** WGA Annual Meeting, Coeur d'Alene
- Aug 27-31 2001 ASCE Wetlands Engineering & River Restoration Conference, Reno, NV. See www.asce.org/conferences/wetlands2001
- Sept 8-11 Children's Environmental Health II: Global Forum for Action Conference, Washington, D.C.
- Sept 13** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- Oct 10-11** Good Neighbor Environmental Board meeting, Laredo, Texas. See www.epa.gov/ocem/gneb-page.htm
- Oct 11** EPA San Diego Border Office Open House, San Diego, CA.
- Oct 16 - 19** SCERP 2001 Annual Technical Conference: Sustainable Development in the U.S.-Mexico Border Region, Mexicali, B.C. See www.scerp.org

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